



"Pupils' personal development, behaviour and welfare is **OUTSTANDING**" (Ofsted, 2019)

Stanley Crook Primary School Weekly Newsletter

Friday 27th January 2023

Vol: 3 Issue: 4

Headteacher's Notices

Planned Strike Action—NEU (February and March)

Most members of our school community will be aware of the planned strike action being taken by members of the National Education Union (NEU), with dates planned in February and March. The dispute with the government and Department for Education (DfE) is focused on pay and conditions of teaching and education support staff and, more generally, in seeking improvements to wider school funding.

I am happy that our school is unaffected by the planned NEU strike action and that we will be in a position to remain open to all children as usual. More disruption to the education of our children, following the significant disruption of the last two years through COVID, is not an ideal situation. However, and despite our school remaining open to the children, we acknowledge the deep rooted and widespread issues within our education system—issues which do need urgently addressing by the government and DfE.

For too long, the education system in our country has been underfunded and undervalued. Working within the sector, there are some of the most committed, dedicated and skilled staff of any profession, who frequently place their professional roles and responsibilities above that of the needs of themselves, their own families and their own children. I see this daily with my own outstanding team of staff at Stanley Crook Primary School, as they work tirelessly to plan and deliver the best possible level of provision and care to the children in school.

Teaching is not a '9-5' job with 'excellent holidays', as many people believe. It regularly requires working at home late into the night, often after a long (and sometimes challenging) day in school and working through 'school breaks' and weekends in order to catch up and to begin planning for the new week/ term. I know from my own experience within the profession, the high level of personal sacrifice the job demands in order for it to be carried out to the highest level, and so that we can provide the children with the best opportunities and educational experience.

The education sector—and more importantly, the children—deserve better!

The government and the Department for Education urgently need to look into real, tangible and sustainable solutions so that reforms can be made to support staff workload and wellbeing, reduce stress and pressure within the role, tackle retention and recruitment issues, and improve funding to both pay and wider school finances, so that teachers and support staff can better and more effectively discharge their role and responsibilities in securing the best outcomes for all of our children.

It is pleasing that school will be unaffected by the planned NEU strikes and that children can attend school as usual. However, we will continue to voice our opinions and concerns regarding pay, conditions and school funding at every opportunity.

Weekly School Values—Diversity

In school this week, we have been focusing on the value, DIVERSITY.

In each Team, the children have been learning about why diversity matters. The children have learned to explore what diversity is, why it is important and how we can show kindness and respect to all people. The children have shared their thoughts on how people can be diverse and have learned what the term 'diverse' and 'diversity' mean. The children have then explored how we can all celebrate diversity and how we can show kindness and respect to others.

In each Team, one child received a nomination from their teachers. This nomination was based on a child who has best demonstrated diversity, respect and kindness in class during the week. The overall School Values Champion for 'Diversity' was chosen as James! Well done to all children for demonstrating so many different acts of kindness and respect this week!

Parent/ Carer Questionnaire

Thank you to parents/ carers who took time to submit responses to our parent/ carer questionnaire. The views of parents/ carers is extremely important to us in providing feedback (good and bad!) on provision at Stanley Crook Primary School. Your feedback provides valuable insight into the views of our parent/ carer body and this is used to inform evaluation and wider strategy around school improvement.

I am pleased by the significant positive response of parents/ carers to our school. The entire team strive each day in seeking to provide only the best experience for all our children at school and while we do not always get things right (and do make mistakes), we are always continually challenging ourselves to improve.

100% of responses 'Strongly Agree/ Agree' that 'My child is happy at school' and that their 'My child feels safe at school'. 100% of responses also 'Strong Agree/ Agree' that school keeps parents/ carers informed on what their child will learn during the year and that 'My child does well at school'.

Very positively, 100% of parents/ carers who have a child with special educational needs in school 'Strongly Agree/ Agree' that 'My child gets the support they need to succeed'!

The feedback has been shared with the staff team and governors and will be analysed in detail to inform future plans and to identify possible areas for improvement. Thank you for your feedback and I will publish full results to parents/ carers in the next couple of weeks.

Team GB Athlete Visit

On Tuesday (31st), Team GB Athlete Mica McNeil will be visiting school to deliver an assembly and support the children take part in a range of fun sponsored challenges.

Thank you to everyone who has collected sponsor money for the visit. Out of the total sponsorship money collected, school will receive almost £1000!

Thank you for your continued support! Have a lovely weekend.

Mr D Christie
Headteacher

For the most up to date information about what is going on in our school including dates for your diaries, parental information and school performance information, please visit our website at:

<https://www.stanleycrook.durham.sch.uk>

Please scan your smartphone device over the QR code to be taken straight to our school website!



Headteacher's T.E.A.M. of the Week

Team of the Week this week is...Team Dahl!

WOW! Well done, Team Dahl!



You are my Team of the Week this week, as I have been so impressed by the ways in which you have all come together as a Team to support one another during Mrs Martin's absence from school.

You have all demonstrated clearly the importance of teamwork and have continued to produce some outstanding pieces of work!

I have been particularly impressed with your work around this week's School Value (Diversity), and how you have all learned how to be kind and show respect.

You should all be very proud of your efforts! Keep up the great work!

Well done, Team Dahl!

Mr C

Weekly T.E.A.M.

Attendance Champions

Team Donaldson	99.3%
Team Dahl	98.6%
Team Cowell	100%
Team Walliams	97.4%
Team Morpurgo	89.6%



Congratulations to

TEAM COWELL

This week's attendance trophy winners!



Children's Achievements in School!

Each week, one child is chosen as 'Headteacher's Star of the Week', 'School Values Champion' and 'Attendance Champion'. Staff also choose a pupil from each Team to be recognised for something special they have achieved during the week! This week's chosen children are:



Congratulations to all of our pupils for their effort and outstanding effort and hard work in our school!

'Together Everyone Achieves More'

Online Safety - TOP TIPS

12 Top Tips for Building Cyber Resilience at Home...

In the last couple of decades, the volume of online traffic has increased exponentially – but, by and large, people's awareness of the accompanying risks hasn't grown along with it. To illustrate the scale of the issue, consider this: a report by the Internet Crime Complaint Centre found that, in the US during 2020, there was a successful cyber-attack every second. Yes: every second.



Criminals continue to find new and devious ways to attempt to hijack our online transactions and harvest our private information. To them, the smart devices that many of us now use as standard at home are simply a convenient back door into our lives – and our networks. Check out our #WakeUpWednesday guide for advice on beefing up your household's cyber resilience. In the guide below you'll find tips on a number of potential risks such as how to use a password manager, how to back up your data and how to check for breaches.



SCHOOL MEMBER



12 Top Tips for BUILDING CYBER RESILIENCE AT HOME

As a society, we're increasingly using technology and tech services in the home. Digital assistants which can adjust the heating or turn lights on and off; streaming services for shows and movies on demand; games consoles; smart speakers; phones; laptops ... the list goes on. As we introduce each new gizmo to our homes, however, we increase the level of threat from cyber criminals. It's essential, therefore, that we learn to become more cyber resilient in relation to the devices and digital services that the people in our household use.

WHAT IS 'CYBER RESILIENCE'?

Cyber resilience focuses on three key areas: reducing the likelihood of a cyber attack gaining access to our accounts, devices or data; reducing the potential impact of a cyber incident; and making the recovery from a cyber attack easier, should we ever fall victim to one.

1. PASSWORDS: LONGER AND LESS PREDICTABLE

The longer, less common and predictable a password is, the more difficult it becomes for cyber criminals to crack. The National Cyber Security Centre's 'three random words' guidelines are ideal for creating a long password which is easy to remember but hard to guess.

2. AVOID RE-USING PASSWORDS

When you use the same password across different logins, your cyber resilience is only as strong as the security of the weakest site or service you've signed up for. If cyber criminals gain access your username and password for one site or service, they'll definitely try them on others.

3. USE A PASSWORD MANAGER

A good way to juggle different passwords for every site or service you use is to have a password manager. This software stores all your passwords for you, so you simply need to remember the master password. LastPass, Dashlane, 1Password and Keeper are all excellent password managers.

4. BACK UP YOUR DATA

Keep a copy of your data using OneDrive, Google Drive or another reputable cloud-based storage solution. If it's extremely important or sensitive information, you could even decide to keep more than one back-up version - by saving it to a removable USB drive or similar device, for example.

5. ENABLE MULTI-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION (MFA)

Multi-factor authentication is where you need access to your phone (to receive a code, for example) or another source to confirm your identity. This makes it far more difficult for cyber criminals to gain entry to your accounts and your data, even if they do manage to get your username and password.

6. CHOOSE RECOVERY QUESTIONS WISELY

Some services let you set 'recovery questions' - such as your birthplace or a pet's name - in case you forget your password. Take care not to use information you might have mentioned (or are likely to in future) on social media. More unpredictable answers make cyber criminals' task far harder.

7. SET UP SECONDARY ACCOUNTS

Some services provide the facility to add secondary accounts, phone numbers and so on to help with potentially recovering your account. Make sure you set these up: they will be vital if you're having trouble logging in or if you're trying to take back control of your account after a cyber attack.

12. STAY SCEPTICAL

Cyber criminals commonly use various methods, including emails, text messages and social media posts. Be cautious of any messages or posts that are out of the ordinary, offer something too good to be true or emphasise urgency - even if they appear to come from someone you know.

11. KEEP HOME DEVICES UPDATED

Download official software updates for your household's mobile phones, laptops, consoles and other internet-enabled devices regularly. Security improvements and fixes are a key feature of these updates - so by ensuring each device is running the latest version, you're making them more secure.

10. CHANGE DEFAULT IOT PASSWORDS

Devices from the 'Internet of Things' (IoT), such as 'smart' home appliances, are often supplied with default passwords. This makes them quicker to set up, but also less secure - criminals can identify these standard passwords more easily, so change them on your IoT devices as soon as possible.

9. CHECK FOR BREACHES

You can check if your personal information has been involved in any known data breaches by entering your email address at www.haveibeenpwned.com (yes, that spelling is correct!). It's useful if you're worried about a possible attack - or simply as motivation to review your account security.

8. KEEP HAVING FUN WITH TECH

Consider our tips in relation to the gadgets and online services your household uses. Protect yourself and your family, and don't let the bad guys win: devices are not only integral to modern life but also a lot of fun - so as long as you keep safety and security in mind, don't stop enjoying your tech.

Meet Our Expert

Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it is essential that adults and children alike become more aware of the risks associated with technology, as well as the many benefits.



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#WakeUpWednesday

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